



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

As the fall time change approaches, the Houston Fire Department wants to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives – changing the batteries in their smoke detectors.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms. Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.

Changing smoke detector batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire.

“Working smoke detectors provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape,” said Fire Chief Phil Boriskie. “This is particularly important for those most at risk of dying in a home fire, such as children and seniors.”

The Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery campaign began in 1987 by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Energizer to raise awareness out the dangers of non-working smoke detectors.

If citizens are unable to obtain a new battery for their smoke alarms, they may look for firefighters giving out batteries (one per household) this week at local grocery stores, or may contact their nearest City of Houston Fire Station.

* HFD Press Conference: Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery – Friday, October 29, 2004 at 10 a.m. at Fire Station 6, 3402 Washington.

For print PSAs and graphics visit:

<http://www.energizer.com/firesafety/Graphics%20Slick.pdf>

